Boston December 16. 1776

The Hon.ble John Hancock Esq.r

Dear Sir,

I wrote you the 2.d Inst. Since which I have received £450. Sterling of Deacon Smith for the Ship. You may remember, Sir, that I wrote you I sold her for £475. Ster.g When the Sails & Rigging were put to the Masts & yards, a considerable part of the running Rigging was missing, the Sails were in a much worse condition than I apprehended. Some of her Plank are rotten, her standing Rigging is not sound, the Captain was obliged to borrow considerable Rigging to bring her here, many of the Braces & small Ropes, broke in the hands of the Sailors in working the Ship, most of her small Stores are lost. her mainmast must also come out. Upon the whole the Ship was in so much worse Condition than M.r Smith apprehended that he began to talk of not taking her. But after a good deal of Altercation I agreed to take £450 Ster.g and represent the matter to you and if you should think proper to make the abatement of the remaining £25. Ster.g it is to be allowed, if not, it is to be paid upon demand and I took his Note of hand for it accordingly. This is due to Deacon Smith considering how Vessels are sold here at present, he might have bought one much better found than yours for less money, however Sir in common times I apprehend She would be thought a cheap Vessel at £475. Captain Carneau in his late excursion Eastward rec.d of Dan.l Bragdon of old York £20. 6/ Lawfull Money and his Note of hand for the balance of his Account being £45. 6. 6/72. He also received of Nath.l Allen Esq.r of Dover £30 Lawf.l and took his Note for £172. 15. 8. M.r Allen was charged in his Account with some Hemp which was Lost before he failed while he lived at Capeldon, and he says you rec.d your dividend of his Effects and it was so settled, he gave his Note for the Ballance of his Account except the Hemp. He received of Nath.l Wells of Wells his Note of hand for £277. 2. 2. being the amount of his Account. Also of Jeremiah Hill of Biddeford his Note for £9. 2. 6. and of John Wheelwright of Wells his Note for £316. 3. 10. all upon Interest. Interest was charged on all these Accounts after 9 Months from the delivery of the Goods. I have let Capt. Carneau have £36. 18/. since your Order to supply him. I noted you have a Letter from Capt Flood, I have let him have £84 Lawfull Money. being near the Amount of the Ship's Portledge Bill

Bill, and as I had not your Orders so to do, I took his Note of hand for the Money, he was so polite to you, Sir, as to threaten to stop the Ship if I refused to let him have it. I have received £100. of M.r John Winthrop who promises to make payment of the whole of his debt in a short time. The M.r Brown, I mentioned to you in a former letter, as one of Scotts hands, is in such necessitous circumstances that I have been perswaded to pay him. I wrote you, Sir, in a former letter that I had let your House that M.r Penney lately occupied, to M.r Peirpont for six Months on Condition that he would thoroughly repair it, and he began, cleaned the House, and has done many things about it, but the Fleet and Troops getting to Newport has so intimidated M.rs Peirpont that she does not chuse to come into Town, and he is collecting to be off the bargain. M.r Thomas Cotton of Pompset, Administrator on the Estate of his Brother Samuel Cotton deceased, which is largely in debt to you, for this Town, by one of his Neighbours £143.7.5 3/4 as the second and last Average, as he calls it, that you will receive, he brought a Certificate from the Register of Probate for that District wherein your whole proportion is made £373.7.5 3/4. The above sum of £143.7.5 3/4, together with £180 you received in Sept.r 1775. and your Order upon the Administrator in favor of David Lee in December following for £50, make up the Sum mentioned in the Register's Certificate. I gave him a Receipt & rec.d the Money. I am endeavoring Sir, the Settlement of all your Accounts, those who cannot pay the Ballances due I propose to take their Note of hand on Interest. The foregoing Sir, is a general State of your Affairs since my last, you may depend upon my utmost endeavors to settle your Accounts &.c in the best & speediest manner I shall be able. I shall enough for Canaan to do, he has two Journies in Contemplation that will make a Winter's Campaign for him. All things remain in very good Order at the Mansion House, Saunders & Spriggs take very good Care of every thing intrusted them. M.rs Campbell the Widow of your late Servant Campbell, is exceeding importunate for Money pretending that considerable is due to her for her Husband's Wages, I have not paid her any, nor shall not without your Orders. News, we have enough Sir, and more than enough for we know not what to rely on for truth, the Accounts we have lately had from the Westward are daily contradictory, and we are held in a most disagreeable Suspence how Matters really are in your quarter.

I.H.

C.N.V.F. 2.23

RW 396

The Recruits for the Army are marching daily, and most that go from this Quarter, are a much better Men taken in general, and are better Officered than have yet engaged in the War. I am without your favors since Capt. Carnean came. All freinds are well. Excuse haste Sir, and believe me to be with the greatest Zeal & Sincerity very dear and worthy Sir, Your Ever Obliged and most Obedient & most humble Servant

William Bant

P.S. We hope that Mr. Hancock is well abed and has blessed you with a fine Boy, if so Mr. Bant begs the favor of his Mama to give him a thousand kisses & welcomes, and charge them to her Account. I just hear that the Alfred Man of War is got in, ~~and to~~ Portsmarket.

Carneau, this minute coming in, desires his most respectful to you Sir, Mr. Hancock & your family.

RW396

To

The Hon.ble John Hancock Esq.r

in

Philadelphia.

Post

William Bant
in Con.s Hon.d Ass.s